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1. A video storage and display system, comprising:

a plurality of video cameras, each outputting a signal representative of a video image;

5 means to receive the signals from each camera and digitally compress the images;

a computer interfaced to the following devices:

a display screen,

means to receive an operator input, and

10 a high-capacity storage medium,

the computer being programmed to perform the following functions:

display the digitally compressed images from the cameras in different windows on the display screen, each window having a dimension in pixels,

15 vary the dimensions and the rate at which a particular image is updated in its window in accordance with an externally derived command input,

store the digitally compressed images in the high-capacity storage medium, and

20 vary the dimensions and the rate at which a particular image is stored in accordance with an externally derived command input.

25 2. The video storage and display system of claim 1, further including means for sensing an aspect of the image associated with at least one of the video cameras to generate the externally derived command responsible for varying the dimensions and the rate at which a particular image is updated in its window.

2. The video storage and display system of claim 1, further including means associated with the computer for controlling the ~~image-gathering capabilities~~ ^{operation} of one or more of the video cameras.
3. The video storage and display system of claim 1, wherein the means to digitally compress the image from a particular camera is disposed at the location of the camera.
4. The video storage and display system of claim 1, wherein the means to digitally compress the image from a particular camera is disposed at the location of the computer.
5. The video storage and display system of claim 1, further including a separate computer associated with each camera, the computers being networked together over a common communication bus, enabling an operator situated at a particular computer to display the images gathered by other cameras ~~to be displayed~~ in separate windows on ~~the~~ ^{that} operator's display screen.
6. The video storage and display system of claim 1, wherein the high-capacity storage medium comprises a magnetic tape.
7. The video storage and display system of claim 1, wherein the high-capacity storage medium comprises a magnetic disk.

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9. The video storage and display system of claim 1, including two forms of high-capacity storage media, one being randomly searchable while the other continues to record.

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5 10. The method of simultaneously displaying and storing multiple video images, comprising the steps of: receiving video images from a plurality of sources;

10 already in digital form;

displaying at least certain of the digitized images in separate windows on a display device, using a first, predetermined frame rate and resolution associated with each window; ^{and}

15 simultaneously storing the displayed images using a second, predetermined frame rate and resolution associated with each image.

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10. The method of claim 10, further including the step of receiving a command to ^{set} determine the frame rate and resolution associated with the display ^{and Storage} of a particular image.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the command is based upon an operator input.

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25 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the command is based upon an external stimulus.

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~~14.~~ The method of simultaneously displaying and storing multiple video images, comprising the steps of:
 receiving video images from a plurality of sources;
5 digitizing one or more of the images if not already in digital form;
 displaying at least certain of the digitized images in separate windows on a display device, using a first set of temporal and spatial parameters associated
10 with each image in each window;
 simultaneously storing the displayed images using a second set of temporal and spatial parameters associated with each image.

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~~15.~~ The method of claim ~~14~~ ¹² the temporal parameters including frame rate.
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~~16.~~ The method of claim ~~14~~ ¹² the spatial parameters including image dimension in pixels.

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